

Richland Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

January 2008

803-576-2080



Farm–City Celebration



This year Richland County's Farm-City celebration honored the horse who has served us so nobly throughout the years. Horses have plowed the farms, gone into battle and provided the horse power to build our country. Whether on the farm or in the city, the horse has been a rich part of our heritage. To get our celebration underway we offered an educational horse show where kids got to try their hand at plowing a mule, watching 4-H riding demonstrations or checking out the antique farm equipment. Families got to take wagon rides and listen to a narrator explain what life was like for the mounted soldier during the Civil War.

The Farm-City Committee provided educational materials to schools to get the students in the mood to "Horse Around". The judges saw some of the best bulletin boards ever presented for judging and were impressed at how much the students had learned. It was very evident that the teachers had gone to a lot of trouble to teach about the equine industry's impact on South Carolina. One teacher even had a Farrier (blacksmith) visit her class and demonstrate how to shoe a horse. Now that's dedication to your students.



Horse N Around was Farm-City's kick-off educational event to teach the "kids" that everything did *not* run on electricity in the good old days. Richland County's Posse was on hand along with the Caisson Unit of the SC Military and the City of Columbia's Mounted Patrol. Mr. Ivory Johnson brought the Junior Buffalo Soldiers Drill Team who proceeded to wow everyone with their precision drill work. They just make you want to stomp and shout! All the children attending enjoyed dressing up in their cowboy hats and chaps and having the opportunity to ride a horse.





Did you know that plowing a mule is really hard work.? I mean really hard work!



Pony Express wanna be! The Pony Express was looking for skinny orphans to get the mail through. Chances were pretty good that the rider might not make it through so orphans were the riders of choice.



The Award's Luncheon was great. Celebrity Chefs prepared made to order omelets for the attending students, parents and teachers. Partners in Progress recognition went to the USC Equestrian Team and Dr. Michael R. Privette of EquiCare Veterinary Clinic.



Contest Winners



Creative and
Entertaining
Bulletin Boards





A star is born! This child is a natural just waiting to be discovered.

Harrison McGee, a 3rd grade student, from Polo Road Elementary School is preparing to read his essay to Stephany Snowden for Richland Revealed, the county's news magazine television show. Harrison's essay entitled, "A Horse is Not Just A Horse of Course" was one of many excellent entries for the Farm-City Celebration this year.

The Farm-City judges were impressed with how much effort the students put into their essays and bulletin boards this year.

Arbor Day Celebration



The Richland County Conservation District presented a purple plum tree to the Ridgewood Neighborhood Association this year to commemorate Arbor Day. Many volunteers donated more than 100 hours to transform a barren lot into a community garden. Pictured from left to right are Edna Grant, Willie Mae Long, Mary Jane Henderson of the Conservation District and Mildred Johnson.



2007 Envirothon was a success!

The Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental competition. It is a hands-on outdoor competition geared for teaching 9-12th grade students about the environment and natural resources. Teams of between 3 and 5 students are tested on their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, a current environmental issue and an oral presentation.



What is "The Conservation Station"?

An outdoor education center for children and adults focusing on our natural resources. It enables the participant to gain a broad understanding of various concepts and issues focusing on : Soils, Geology, Forestry, Wildlife, Air Quality and Water. The Conservation Station is located at the Sandhill Research and Education Center. For more information please contact Mary Jane Henderson of the Richland Conservation District at 803-576-2080.



Blue Waters & Greenways- February 14, 2008 at Riverbank Zoo

A conservation awareness conference for local community leaders, public officials, and conservation organizations interested in watershed restoration, water quality, greenways and better green development. The event begins at 9:00 am with a complimentary lunch provided by the Conservation Commission and supported by coalition members including the Conservation District. Registration is required and for more information, contact our conservation office at 576-2080.

2007 NRCS Program Report for Richland County

Including the 2007 contracts there are a total of 6 active Environmental Quality Incentives Program EQIP contracts in Richland County. The total acreage for the 6 active contracts is 2250.10. Four of the six contracts were awarded in 2007. The total acreage covered by the 2007 EQIP contracts is 1876.40. Practices covered by these contracts include:

- Prescribed Burning*
- Forest Stand Improvement*
- Firebreaks*
- Early Successional Habitat Development/Management*
- Cover Crop*
- Pipeline
- Irrigation Water Management
- Critical Area Planting

*Practices for 2007 contracts

3 EQIP contracts were fulfilled in 2007 covering 565 acres. Practices included:
Irrigation Sprinkler System

1 WRP contract was completed in 2007 totaling 1500 acres. Practices included:

- Critical Area Planting
- Wetland Restoration
- Stream Habitat Improvement/Management
- Structure for Water Control

Gills Creek Watershed Restoration

Gills Creek Watershed located in central Richland County contains over 47,000 acres and more than 75 miles of streams. Over the last decades the water quality in Gills Creek has deteriorated as a result of sedimentation and numerous pollutants. Lakes have filled with sediment, reducing capacity for water storage and destroying the fish and wildlife habitat of the lakes and streams.

A task force composed of concerned citizens and government officials are developing a coordinated approach to planning, regulation and development in a restoration effort to this environmentally sensitive area. Over 90 individuals have joined together to develop a comprehensive master plan for management of the Gills Creek Watershed. Elliott Powell, life-long resident of the Gills Creek Watershed, is serving as interim Chairman of the task force. The vision of the task force is that in 2018, the Gills Creek Watershed will be a national model for watershed management and planning, a lofty goal but not one that can not be achieved.

For further information on the Gills Creek Watershed Restoration efforts you may contact Hugh Caldwell of the Richland Conservation District at 576-2082 or email at: Caldwell@rcgov.us

Affiliate Members are a vital part of our conservation team. Without the monetary support given from Affiliates, we would not be able to carry out the many programs to promote "Conservation Stewardship" within the county. The Conservation District is committed to helping educate the students and landowners of Richland County. Become an affiliate member by sending this slip to:

**Richland Conservation District
2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204**

I would like to become an Individual/Corporate sponsor of The Richland Conservation District

<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate Basic Membership	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Affiliate Member	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Affiliate Member	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Affiliate Member	\$200 or more

Name _____

Address _____

City, St., Zip _____

Your contribution is tax deductible

Richland Conservation District

Commissioners

John V. Green, Chairman
Lewis Gunter, Vice Chairman
Kenneth Mullis, Sec./Treasurer
Heath Hill
Hemphill Pride, III
Rev. Cathy Jamieson-Ogg, Chaplain

Associate Commissioners

Jeff Laney
Mary Ann Hoffman

District Staff

Hugh Caldwell, District Manager
Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant
Mary Jane Henderson, Education Coordinator
LaKeisha Hill, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
Ricky Walker, Civil Engineer Tech. NRCS, Ft. Jackson
Joy Sullivan, Program Coordinator, DNR

PLEASE NOTE

The Richland Conservation District Commissioner's Board Meeting will be the second Monday of each month. Each meeting begins at 6:30 PM. The public is cordially invited to attend. For information on meeting location please call 803-576-2080 or email fisherc@rcgov.us

The USDA prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and disability.